



ASMFC

# Fisheries *focus*

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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission • 1444 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C.

## *Susan Shipman Receives Prestigious David H. Hart Award*

On October 18, 2000, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission proudly recognized the enormous commitment of Susan Shipman to the conservation and management of Atlantic coast fisheries. The award was presented at the Commission's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida.

In presenting the award to his longtime colleague and friend, David Cupka, South Carolina's Governor's Appointee to the Commission, had the following to say:

"It's that time of the year again when we pause from our busy annual meeting schedule to recognize an individual with the Commission's highest award – the Captain David H. Hart Award. This award is given by the Commission to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the betterment of marine fisheries on the Atlantic coast. Captain Dave's roots were in the commercial fishing industry and he understood the need to conserve and properly manage our fishery resources. He was a leader in the true sense of the word and excelled at getting people to work together to accomplish the Commission's goals. It was my privilege to have attended many Commission meetings with Captain Dave and I will always remember one of his favorite sayings – "If I had only

known I was going to live so long, I would have taken better care of myself." He was a remarkable individual with wonderful insights on life that he loved to share with people.

In 1993, I was asked to say a few words about the recipient of the Hart Award that year. The winner was Dr. Edwin B. Joseph, a good friend and mentor of

The recipient of the 2000 Captain David H. Hart Award has worked diligently in the field of marine fisheries management for more than twenty years. This year's winner has made numerous contributions to the proper management and development of marine fisheries and the protection of marine habitats at the state, regional and national level. This individual has been a driving force on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council for many years. In my opinion, and that of many others, this person has contributed significantly to the successes of the Commission and the Council, and to fisheries management in general.

This year's recipient has served as a state representative and Chair of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Service to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission includes 10 years on

the Management and Science Committee, membership on numerous Plan Review Teams and Management Boards, Chair of several Management Boards, the Legislative Committee, the Administrative Oversight Committee, and the Standards and Procedures Working Group, which revised the Interstate Fisheries Management Program



*Susan Shipman, ASMFC incoming Chair and Chief of Marine Fisheries for the State of Georgia, with the 2000 Captain David H. Hart Award*

many of us in this room. This was both a joyful and a sad occasion for me. It was a joyful occasion because Ed was being recognized by his peers for his many contributions to the work of the Commission but it was a sad occasion because Ed was receiving the award posthumously. I am glad to tell you that this year's recipient is very much alive and hopefully will be with us for many years to come.

*continued on page 5*

***The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species. The fifteen member states of the Commission are: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.***

***Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission***

David V.D. Borden (RI), Chair  
 Susan Shipman (GA), Vice-Chair  
 John H. Dunnigan, Executive Director  
 Dieter N. Busch, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program  
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 Laura C. Leach, Director of Finance and Administration

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## Upcoming Meetings

### ***11/17 (9:00 AM):***

ASMFC Striped Bass Addendum V Public Meeting, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, Commissioners' Hearing Room, Charles County Governmental Center, 200 Baltimore Street, LaPlata, Maryland. For more information, please contact A.C. Carpenter at (804) 224-7148.

### ***11/27 - 12/1:***

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Sheraton Atlantic Beach, 2717 West Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, North Carolina; (252) 240-1452.

### ***11/28 - 30:***

NMFS Mid-Atlantic Take Reduction Team, Sheraton Oceanfront, Virginia Beach, Virginia. For more information, please contact Winnie Chan at (978)281-9111 or Winnie.Chan@Noaa.gov

### ***11/29 (Noon - 6:00 PM):***

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board & Striped Bass Management Board, Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel, 1850 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island; (401)738-4000.

### ***11/30 (8:30 AM - 3:00 PM):***

ASMFC American Lobster Management Board, Sheraton Providence Airport Hotel, 1850 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island; (401)738-4000.

### ***12/5 & 6:***

Flatfish Biology Conference, Best Western Sovereign Hotel, Mystic, Connecticut. For more information, please contact Anthony Calabrese at anthony.calabrese@noaa.gov

### ***12/7 (7:30 PM):***

ASMFC Atlantic Sturgeon Public Meeting, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Marine Resources, 205 Belle Mead Road, East Setauket, New York. For more information, please contact: Byron Young at (631) 444-0436.

### ***12/12 - 14:***

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Trump Plaza, Boardwalk & Mississippi Avenue, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

### ***12/12 - 14:***

NMFS Gulf of Maine Take Reduction Team, Sheraton Ferncroft, Danvers, Massachusetts. For more information, please contact Winnie Chan at (978)281-9111 or Winnie.Chan@Noaa.gov

The Commission's 59th Annual Meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida, was a terrific success. For me, the week just blew by! While I was packing on Thursday morning, getting ready to come home, I felt that it must be too soon for the meeting to be over. I felt like I had just got there, and it was too soon for it all to be ending.

One of the great parts of the 59th Annual Meeting was the opportunity to spend time with so many of our friends and colleagues from the Gulf of Mexico. Celebrating together a new century of interstate cooperation in the promotion and protection of our shared marine fishery resources, the Atlantic and Gulf coast states renewed their commitment to each other, to working through their Commissions, to put the resource first, and to recognize and build upon the strengths that they have through their mutual partnerships.

Thank you, State of Florida, and especially Lisa Gregg and Rob Kramer, for all your support. Thank you, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission for your friendship and sharing. And most especially, thank you, ASMFC staff, for all you did to make the 59th Annual Meeting a success!

For the Atlantic states, the 59th Annual Meeting was another chance to explore the ways in which we sometimes have to test the edges of our partnership in order to make sure that our footing is firm. Compliance under the Interstate Fisheries Management Program Charter, and the implications that it has under federal law, is not the most important facet of the interstate partnership. But, it is one of those factors that is very important in testing our mutual commitment to conservation, and in proving our determination to implement effective measures.

One of the most difficult compliance issues that the Commission had to deal with was Virginia's compliance with the Horseshoe Crab Fishery Management Plan (FMP). For months, the Management Board explored different ways of meeting its goals and addressing the needs of one of its partner states. In the end, the Board and the entire Commission held its ground and stood for what is right for the resource. And after a lot of soul searching, and probably some very hard bargaining within the state, Virginia found a way to bring itself back into compliance by understanding its real needs and focusing on its long-term interest. I believe that the Virginia officials who forged the solution to this long-standing problem, including our ASMFC Commissioners from Virginia, ought to be commended for working hard to support and remain inside the cooperative interstate process. In the long run, that is where we all win.

I believe that we also owe some thanks to our friends and colleagues at the National Marine Fisheries Service, who

also toiled behind the scenes to make sure that this process continues to be successful. Without their diligence, we could not have achieved the successful conclusion of this process, with all of the states working together.

The 59th Annual Meeting also saw the resolution of South Carolina's noncompliance with the Shad & River Herring FMP. This, too, was difficult for the state representatives to the Commission. It also tested the Commission's ability to work effectively within its process to support its plans and, at the same time, address the needs of its members. We learned a little about how to make our process work better, and the staff will look for ways to implement this lesson. The ASMFC Commissioners from South Carolina should be commended for finding a way to match their requirements to the needs of the mutual management program.

And then there was the new determination of noncompliance that the Commission made, this time with respect to Rhode Island's implementation of the Lobster FMP. We can only trust that this issue will be resolved by supporting the mutual conservation program as was done in the Virginia and South Carolina cases.

Too often I hear people say that compliance decisions, and their federal legal implications, are what makes the interstate fisheries management process work along the Atlantic coast. I disagree. The real strength of the cooperative interstate management process for our coastal fisheries is the mutual commitment of the states to work together. It lies in the recognition that we share common interests, and that the good of each individual state is best served by the good of the whole. Compliance is something we have to do in order to maintain the integrity of our mutual process, and to remind ourselves of the nature and importance of our commitments. It is not a task that either the individual states involved nor the Commission as a whole particularly looks forward to. I recall a familiar analogy to a dentist's chair. On the other hand, uncomfortable though it may be, even a root canal is good for you in the long run.

But let us never forget what really makes the Commission's program effective. We will surely fail if we seek only to force the will of the majority through the compliance process, and neglect to reinforce our real strengths. And those strengths lie in the ability to really listen to each other, share our mutual needs and concerns, and craft solutions that focus on our shared success.

A lot of water will flow under the bridge in the next year. I look forward to seeing you all again at the Commission's 60th Annual Meeting in Maine!

## ASMFC Horseshoe Crab Management Board Approves Development of Addendum II to the FMP: *Addendum to Allow State-by-State Quota Transfers*



On October 17, 2000, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Horseshoe Crab Management Board approved the development of an addendum to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Horseshoe Crab in order to allow for the voluntary transfer of horseshoe crab quota among states. The provisions of the Addendum will include requirements for a case-by-case review of each transfer by the Horseshoe Crab Technical Committee, with final approval by the Management Board before any transfer can occur.

Representatives from the Commonwealth of Virginia informed the Board that this action will provide the Commonwealth with the opportunity to come back into compliance with Addendum I to the FMP as early as next Tuesday. Virginia's Commissioner of Marine Resources indicated that the states Marine Resources Commission would consider a rule at its meeting Tuesday,

October 24, 2000, that would impose the quota required by the FMP.

"The Commission appreciates the efforts of Virginia to resolve this difficult issue," stated John H. Dunnigan, Executive Director of the Commission. "This action proves that the process works, and that the states that form the Commission are committed to working together for the best of the resource and for their constituencies. The states stuck to their guns and supported their conservation goals. In the same vein, the Commonwealth's representatives on the Management Board are to be commended in finding a solution to this problem."

In early June, the Commission found Virginia out-of-compliance with the required landings cap provision of Addendum I to the FMP. On October 16, 2000, the National Marine Fisheries Ser-

vice announced its intent to declare a federal moratorium on fishing for and the possession of horseshoe crabs in Virginia waters. This action was to take effect on October 23, 2000.

Under the Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Plan Program Charter, any state that is subject to a moratorium and has revised its conservation program to come back into compliance may request that the Commission rescind its finding of noncompliance. Upon receiving documentation from the state of every measure required of it, the Commission Chair has the authority to withdraw the noncompliance finding.

For more information, please contact Dieter Busch, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program, at (202)289-6400.

## NMFS Rescinds Implementation of Horseshoe Crab Moratorium; Virginia Closes Fishery as of October 23

Several important actions have occurred since the Horseshoe Crab Board took its actions as reported above. On October 20th, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) took action to delay implementation of the federal moratorium on the harvest and possession of horseshoe crabs from Virginia waters until October 27, 2000, in order to allow the Commonwealth to fully come back into compliance with the Commission fishery management plan.

That same day (October 20th), the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) convened an emergency meeting to establish rules for coming back into compliance. The VMRC approved the landings cap established by Addendum I to the FMP, and closed its horseshoe crab fishery on October 23, 2000.

On October 26, 2000, NMFS cancelled its implementation of the moratorium on the harvest and possession of horseshoe crabs from Virginia waters. The notice of this action appeared in the Federal Register on October 31. For more information on NMFS' action, please contact Paul Perra or Tom Meyer at (301)427-2014.



## Susan Shipman Receives Prestigious David H. Hart Award (continued from page 1)

Charter, the Administrative Commissioner from the State of Georgia for the last seven years, and as Vice-Chair of the Commission for the last two years.

She has been a member of the American Fisheries Society since 1984. In 1991, she served as President of the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society and was awarded the Society's Distinguished Service Award in 1993. In 1983, she was the recipient of the Governor's Award for Outstanding Service in State Government. In 1992, she received the Georgia Wildlife Federation's Special Conservation Achievement Award.

When I think of this year's winner, many adjectives and phrases come to mind which describe her but the four which come immediately to mind are outstanding leadership, total commitment, extreme competence, and a very caring individual. She leads by example and never backs away from a challenge. Once she takes on a task, you know that it will be accomplished in a thorough and competent manner. She is someone who is always willing to do her share and then some and I only wish she would

tell me how she manages to get at least forty hours into each day so that she can read everything. She is recognized throughout the fisheries

and environmental communities as a professional, extremely dedicated, caring and knowledgeable individual. Her concern about fishery resources and about the users of these resources is recognized by everyone with whom she comes in contact. She has worked tirelessly to see that these resources are conserved and utilized properly, while taking into account the needs and concerns of the fishermen. She is a visionary and she is a true leader who is able to work with diverse constituencies to resolve fishery management issues.

In addition to her professional career, she is very active in community activities and has performed a lot of volunteer work for which she has been recog-



*Georgia Commisisoners celebrate (from left): Ralph Balkcom, ASMFC Governor's Appointee, Susan Shipman, ASMFC Chair and Chief of Marine Fisheries for Georgia, Representative Bob Lane, ASMFC Legislative representative, and Mrs. Balkcom.*

nized and received awards. Her willingness to serve and her personal commitments extend well beyond her job to her community and her personal life.

As we begin a new century and indeed and new millennium, and as we rededicate to the principles and goals of this Commission, I can think of no other person more qualified to receive this year's award. I believe that she personifies the best qualities of the Commission and that her accomplishments represent what we all strive to achieve. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in recognizing the recipient of the 2000 Captain David H. Hart Award – Susan Shipman.”

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## Scup Fishery Closed for the Remainder of the Year

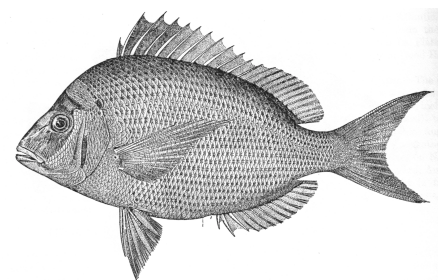
The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service took action in late October to close the commercial scup fishery on November 3 for the remainder of the calendar year.

The fishery is managed through a series of quota periods, with the Winter II period running from November 1 through December 31 of each year. The quota for the Winter II period this year was limited to 70,356 pounds, with a pos-

session limit of 500 pounds. Under this scenario, only 140 commercial trips would have occurred coastwide. This limited fishery combined with the need to continue rebuilding the resource were the primary reasons why state and federal fishery managers made the decision to close the commercial fishery.

The commercial scup fishery will reopen on January 1, 2001 for the Winter I quota period which runs through April 30, 2001, or until the quota has been

landed. For more information, please contact Robert Beal, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400.



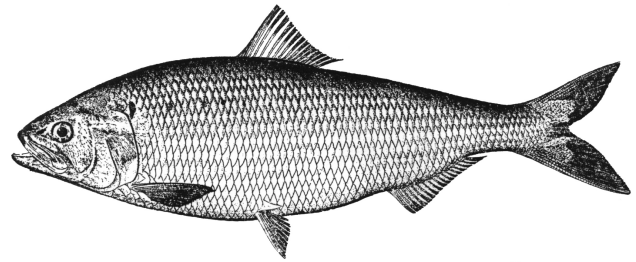
# ASMFC Determines South Carolina to be in Compliance with Amendment 1 to the Shad & River Herring FMP

On October 19, 2000, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission withdrew its finding of noncompliance for the State of South Carolina relative to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Shad and River Herring. Specifically, South Carolina has met the 10-fish creel limit compliance requirement of the FMP for all its watersheds, with the exception of the Santee River. Additionally, the state has met the 10-fish creel compliance requirement for the Santee River through the implementation of management measures, which provide for conservation equivalency.

"The State of South Carolina has clearly shown its commitment to fully implementing Amendment 1 to the FMP," stated Commission Chair David V.D. Borden. "The Board is confident that the conservation needs of the resource have been met, and it commends the efforts of South Carolina to come back into compliance with the FMP."

In June 2000, the Commission found South Carolina out of compliance with Amendment 1 to the FMP in that it did not fully implement the required recreational fishery daily creel limit for American and hickory shad. Soon after this finding, South Carolina state legislature passed H.4864, a bill establishing a 10 fish creel limit in all South Carolina state waters with the exception of the Santee River, where a creel limit of 20 fish was imposed. This action, however, did not bring the state into full compliance with Amendment 1.

In late September, state representatives John Miglarese and David Cupka submitted an alternative management proposal to the Commission, stating that South Carolina could come into compliance with Amendment 1 through conservation



equivalency. Specifically, the state presented a management program, which includes a reduction of fishing days and open seasons on the Santee. South Carolina argued that these measures combined with its proposed recreational measures met the conservation equivalency requirements of Amendment 1.

The Commission's ISFMP Charter requires the Executive Director to notify the State, Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior of the Commission's determination. Upon receipt of this written notification, the Secretary of Commerce will automatically withdraw noncompliance actions, thus averting implementation of a federal moratorium for fishing on shad. The Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act mandates a cooperative state/federal program to conserve and manage valuable coastal fisheries. It requires the Commission to prepare and adopt FMPs. It also imposes an obligation on each state covered by a FMP to implement and enforce the FMP's regulations in state waters, or else face the possibility of a federal moratorium on fishing for the affected species in that state.

For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400.

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## Rhode Island Found Out-of-Compliance with American Lobster Addendum I

On October 19, 2000, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission determined that the State of Rhode Island is out-of-compliance with the required non-trap gear possession limit of Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for American Lobster. Specifically, Rhode Island is not implementing the limits on non-trap gear provided by the FMP.

This action was based on the recommendations of the American Lobster Management Board and the Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board. The non-trap gear provision is one of seven coastwide management mea-

asures that are the foundation of the FMP. The provision limits the possession of lobster by non-trap gear to 100 lobsters per day, up to a maximum of 500 lobsters for trips five days or longer. This provision is intended to be a bycatch allowance for the mobile gear fishery. Amendment 3 required implementation of this measure by October 1, 1998.

From the October 1, 1998 to June 29, 2000, the State of Rhode Island fully implemented and enforced this measure. However, the measure was withdrawn by Rhode Island's

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# Rhode Island Found Out-of-Compliance with American Lobster Addendum I (continued from page 6)

Marine Fisheries Council this past June despite the objections of the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Management and Governor Almond.

The Commission's ISFMP Charter requires the Executive Director to notify the State, Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior of the Commission's determination within 10 working days of the Commission's finding. Upon receipt of the recommendation, the Secretary of Commerce has 30 days to review the recommendation and take final action. If Rhode Island should remain out-of-compliance with Addendum I then ultimately the Secretary of Com-

merce may place a moratorium on fishing for American lobsters in Rhode Island (pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 5106). These actions are the result of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, which mandates a cooperative state/federal program to conserve and manage valuable coastal fisheries. It requires the Commission to prepare and adopt FMPs. It also imposes an obligation on each state covered by a FMP to implement and enforce the FMP's regulations in state waters, or else face the possibility of a federal moratorium on fishing for the affected species in that state.

For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400.

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## Atlantic Coastal States Schedule Public Meetings on Draft Menhaden Amendment

Atlantic coastal states from Maine through South Carolina have scheduled meetings to gather public comment on the latest draft of Amendment 1 to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The specific details of those meetings follow:

### **November 8, 2000; 7:00 PM**

Maine Department of Marine Resources  
194 McKown Point Road  
West Boothbay Harbor, Maine  
Contact: Lew Flagg at (207) 624-6548

### **November 13, 2000; 7:00 PM**

Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Service, Tawes State Office Building  
580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland  
Contact: Howard King at (410) 260-8264

### **November 14, 2000; 7:00 PM**

Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Avenue  
Newport News, Virginia  
Contact: Jack Travelstead at (757) 247-2247

### **November 15, 2000; 6:00 PM**

New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife  
A-Wing Lecture Hall  
Stockton College  
Ponoma, New Jersey  
Contact: Bruce Freeman at (609) 868-1096

### **November 16, 2000; 7:00 PM**

New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation,  
Bureau of Marine Resources  
205 Belle Mead Road  
East Setauket, New York  
Contact: Byron Young at (631) 444-0436

### **November 20, 2000; 7:00 PM**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Mayport Elementary School  
2753 Shangri-La Drive  
Atlantic Beach, Florida  
Contact: Roy Williams at (850) 487-0554

### **November 20, 2000; 7:00 - 9:00 PM**

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
University of North Carolina  
Institute of Marine Science Auditorium (new wing)  
3431 Arendell Street  
Morehead City, North Carolina  
Contact: Mike Street at (252) 726-7021

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## Joint Resolution of the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions in Support of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, meeting jointly in honor of a new millennium of interstate coastal fisheries cooperation, do mutually resolve as follows:

**Whereas**, the States along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico coasts, from Maine through Texas, work together in close partnership to promote and protect the valuable marine fishery resources that they share with their sister states; and

**Whereas**, these States share public trust responsibilities for these resources not only with each other, but also with the Federal government; and

**Whereas**, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior is one of the principal agencies of the Federal government with significant expertise and responsibility for working with the States to secure the public interest in coastal fisheries; maintains a strong commitment to the conservation of the aquatic environment and has a long history of dedicated commitment to working with its State partners; and

**Whereas**, the programs of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, including but not limited to its Fisheries Management Assistance Program, National Fish Hatchery System Program, Coastal Program, Sport Fish Restoration Program, Coastal Wetlands and Conservation Grant Program, Law Enforcement Program, Aquatic Nuisance Species Program, Habitat Conservation Program, Environmental Contaminants Program, Fish Health Program, Endangered Species Program, National Wildlife Refuges Program, have made and are continuing to make substantial contributions to the management, restoration, recovery and sustainability of coastal fisheries resources, and

**Whereas**, the Northeast, Southeast and the Southwest Regions of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, together with the States, have the responsibility for recommending and taking enforcement actions for the conservation, protection and sustainability of diadromous fish species on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, including the restoration of fish passages and water flows; and

**Whereas**, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior serves the Commissions in numerous management, scientific and technical capacities; and is dedicated to the integration of a science-based ecosystems approach to the management of fish and wildlife resources; and

**Whereas**, it is essential to the success of cooperative interstate coastal fishery conservation and management that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service be an effective and vital partner in anticipating, addressing and solving the critical problems being faced in securing the public trust in coastal fishery resources

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**

**That** the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission do strongly urge the following principles and commitments upon the first leaders of the United States government elected by the people in the new millennium, namely, upon the new Administration that will take office in January, 2001; upon the Transition Team that will prepare the way for the new Administration; and upon the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress:

**That** the United States and its governmental leaders recognize the essential and critical partnership between the States and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the conservation and management of the valuable coastal fisheries resources of this Nation;

**That** the Administration and Congress seek actively to strengthen the policies and programs of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that support the States, and recommit to the traditional strong partnership between the states and the federal government on coastal fisheries; and

**That** the Administration and Congress provide the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with the funding essential to support management assistance for coastal fisheries, cooperative conservation programs for anadromous species, conservation and enhancement of valuable coastal fisheries habitat, and research to provide information for state and federal agencies to secure the public trust in coastal fishery resources.

Done this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2000, in Clearwater Beach, Florida







## Joint Resolution of the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions in Support of the National Marine Fisheries Service

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, meeting jointly in honor of a new millennium of interstate coastal fisheries cooperation, do mutually resolve as follows:

**Whereas**, the States along the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico coasts, from Maine through Texas, work together in close partnership to promote and protect the valuable marine fishery resources that they share with their sister states; and

**Whereas**, these States share public trust responsibilities for these resources not only with each other, but also with the Federal government; and

**Whereas**, the National Marine Fisheries Service of the Department of Commerce is one of the principal agencies of the Federal government with significant expertise and responsibility for working with the States to secure the public interest in coastal fisheries; carries out a comprehensive program for the conservation and management of marine fisheries; is a leader in the international effort to understand and protect marine fishery resource populations; maintains a strong commitment to the conservation of the aquatic environment and has a long history of dedicated commitment to working with its State partners; and

**Whereas**, the programs of the National Marine Fisheries Service, including fisheries research, law enforcement and statistics, have made and are continuing to make substantial contributions to the management, restoration, recovery and sustainability of coastal fisheries resources, and

**Whereas**, the five Regional Fishery Management Councils in the Atlantic and Gulf areas carry out the responsibility for cooperative regulatory planning for marine fisheries; work closely with the states; and provide an opportunity for fisheries constituencies to participate in the decision making that governs marine fisheries; and

**Whereas**, the National Marine Fisheries Service is a full partner with the states in efforts to improve our common understanding of fisheries and fisheries resources through cooperation in the development and implementation of fisheries statistics programs; and serves the Commissions in numerous management, scientific and technical capacities; and

**Whereas**, it is essential to the success of cooperative interstate coastal fishery conservation and management that the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Regional Fishery Management Councils be effective and vital partners in anticipating, addressing and solving the critical problems being faced in securing the public trust in coastal fishery resources

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**

**That** the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission do strongly urge the following principles and commitments upon the first leaders of the United States government elected by the people in the new millennium, namely, upon the new Administration that will take office in January, 2001; upon the Transition Team that will prepare the way for the new Administration; and upon the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress:

**That** the United States and its governmental leaders recognize the essential and critical partnership between the States, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Regional Fishery Management Councils in the conservation and management of the valuable coastal fisheries resources of this Nation;

**That** the Administration and Congress seek actively to strengthen the policies and programs of the National Marine Fisheries Service that support the States, and recommit to the traditional strong partnership between the states and the federal government on coastal and marine fisheries; and

**That** the Administration and Congress provide the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Regional Fishery Management Councils with the funding essential to build and maintain sustainable coastal and marine fisheries, including conservation and management operations, research, statistics, habitat and law enforcement, in order to secure the public trust in coastal fishery resources.

Done this 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2000, in Clearwater Beach, Florida





# Atlantic Coastal States Schedule Public Meetings on Draft Menhaden Amendment (continued from page 7)

## **November 21, 2000; 7:00 - 9:00 PM**

North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
Roanoke Island Festival Park  
Iceplant Island  
Manteo, North Carolina  
Contact: Mike Street at (252) 726-7021

## **November 21, 2000; 6:00 PM**

Georgia Coastal Resources Division &  
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
Armstrong Atlantic University  
Ashmore Auditorium  
Savannah, Georgia  
Contacts: Susan Shipman at (912) 264-7218  
or David Cupka at (843) 762-5010

## **December 7; 7:00 PM**

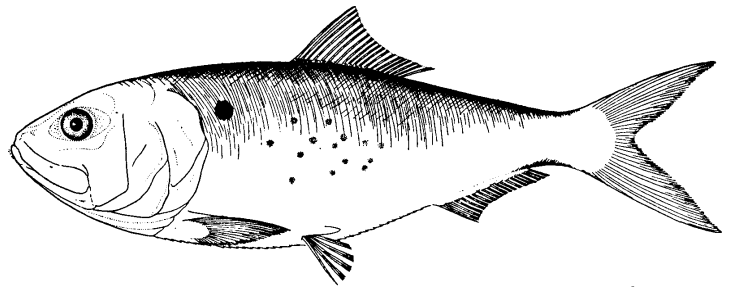
Rhode Department of Environmental Management  
Narragansett Town Hall  
25 Fifth Avenue  
Narragansett, Rhode Island  
Contact: Brian Murphy at (401) 782-4713

Development of Amendment 1, which is the first rewrite of the existing Atlantic Menhaden FMP since 1992, was undertaken for two major reasons. The first being concern that the Atlantic coastal population of Atlantic menhaden is in decline and that the management strategies set forth in the current plan may not adequately address declines in the population. The other reason stems from the Management Board's desire to bring the FMP up to speed with the mandates of the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (ACFCMA), which requires Commission FMPs to contain provisions for alternative state management, de minimis guidelines, adaptive management guidelines and mandatory compliance criteria.

One of the key provisions in Amendment 1 is a new overfishing definition that will be used as a benchmark for developing future management measures. The new overfishing definition employs a target and threshold approach for assessing the status of the population. A target fishing mortality ( $F = 1.0$ ) and a target spawning stock biomass ( $SSB = 37,400$  metric tons) are proposed in Amendment 1 along with threshold levels for each. The fishing mortality threshold level ( $F = 1.4$ ) is a maximum level that should not be exceeded, while the SSB threshold (20,570 mt) is the minimum level of SSB that the population should not fall below. Currently,  $F$  is estimated at approximately 1.0, but has in the past greatly exceeded the proposed target. The coastwide SSB is cur-

rently slightly below the proposed target. Future management efforts will be developed to maintain  $F$  rates at or below the target and SSB at or above the target.

In addition to the new overfishing definition, Amendment 1 contains a number of other management options including rebuilding targets and schedules, data collection provisions, catch control options, a minimum mesh size for purse seine vessels, and a seasonal area closure to protect migrating juvenile menhaden. This seasonal closure would prohibit menhaden purse seine fishing within one mile of shore from Cape Henry, Virginia to Cape Fear, North Carolina from November 1 to January 31. Finally, the amendment proposes a restructuring of the management process for Atlantic menhaden. Specifically, there are two options regarding the makeup of the management board which will oversee the management process, one retaining industry representatives on the Atlantic Menhaden Management Board, and one with no industry representation.



Copies of the Draft Amendment and the summary document can be obtained by either contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, ext. 324, or via the Commission's webpage under "Public Input" at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org). The public comment period extends until December 22, 2000. Written comments should be forwarded to Dr. Joseph Desfosse, Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005 or [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org). For more information, please contact Dr. Joseph Desfosse at (202) 289-6400, ext. 329.

# Northern Shrimp Section Increases the 2001 Season to 83 Days; Anticipates Completion of Plan Amendment by late 2001

On October 30, 2000, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Northern Shrimp Section approved an 83-day fishing season for the 2001 northern shrimp fishery, a 32-day increase from last year's season. The action was based upon the recommendations of both the Commission's Northern Shrimp Advisory Panel and Technical Committee. In addition, the Section reiterated its commitment to aggressively pursue development of an amendment to the fishery management plan (FMP), which will provide the Section additional tools to manage this resource.

"I am pleased that the Section was able to increase the season this year, and provide the fishermen and the processors with what they need to have a successful season," stated Section Chair, Senator Jill Goldthwait from Maine. "The results of the most recent northern shrimp trawl survey show an improvement in the resource from last year. All the important indicators – abundance, recruitment, and harvestable biomass – are up." Goldthwait also noted, how-

ever, "that the Section is concerned about the abnormally high catch rates observed last year. If that situation persists, further reductions in future years may be required."

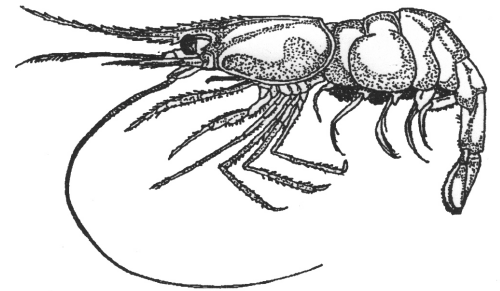
Based on the recommendations of industry advisors, the fishing season will be in two periods – January 9, 2001 to March 17, 2001, and April 16 - 30, 2001. The Section also elected to allow fishing on every day of the week instead of requiring "no-fishing days" during the season. The season is the same for mobile and trap gear.

In other business, the Section began to identify the issues and options to be contained in the first draft of the amendment to the FMP. The amendment, which is slated to be completed in 2001, will define long-term goals and objectives for the fishery. Throughout the plan development process, the public will be given ample opportunity to provide its input and advice on the future of northern shrimp management. The primary goal of the amendment will be to provide more management options

to regulate and guide the recovery of this species, while also taking into consideration the historical participation and importance of this fishery.

The northern shrimp fishery is jointly regulated by the States of Maine and New Hampshire, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Northern Shrimp Section. The cooperative management program has been in place since 1972 and is currently managed under the 1986 FMP.

For more information, please contact Dieter Busch, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program, at (202)289-6400, ext. 316.



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## ASMFC Comings & Goings

**Amy Schick** -- On October 23, 2000, Commission said goodbye to Amy Schick. Amy, who has held the position of FMP Coordinator for the past two and a half years, has moved on to work for the Pew Oceans Commission.

The Pew Oceans Commission was established earlier this year with the mission to review and evaluate the nation's current policies and practices regarding protection and restoration of U.S. living marine resources. Amy will be focusing specifically on the impacts and effects of U.S. fisheries management and policy on preventing overfishing, and reducing bycatch and habitat loss.

During her time with the Commission, Amy was responsible for coordinating the management of various Commission species, most notably American lobster and northern shrimp. Amy will be missed by ASMFC staff and Commissioners alike. Her cheerful disposition and her ability to look at the sunny side of life was a real asset to the Commission. She brought to her job a dedication and commitment way beyond her years. We wish her all the best, and look forward to working with her again in the future!

## ACCSP Coordinating Council Approves 2001 Budget

The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Funding Decision Process was the chief topic of discussion at the recent Coordinating Council meeting in Clearwater Beach, Florida. Every spring, the Council approves priority issues that partners may submit proposals to address. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is sent to all ACCSP partners and committees, including proposal evaluation criteria noted in the ACCSP Funding Decision Guidelines. Proposals may be submitted by partners or by ACCSP committees before August 1 each year. Priorities approved by the Coordinating Council for 2001 included implementation of commercial and recreational modules, partner data management needs, and biological and at-sea sampling to gather data on an approved list of currently managed species.

Nearly 30 proposals were received during the 2001 RFP period. The ACCSP Advisory and Operations Committees carefully considered each and made recommendations to the Council for approval. At its Florida meeting, the Council approved funding to implement the ACCSP commercial trip reporting in New Jersey and South Carolina; approved funds for enhanced scup and herring biological sampling in Massachusetts and Maine, respectively; provided funding to pilot the collection of metadata in North Carolina; and agreed to increase Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey recreational sampling by 1.5X in the Northeast Region (Virginia to Maine).

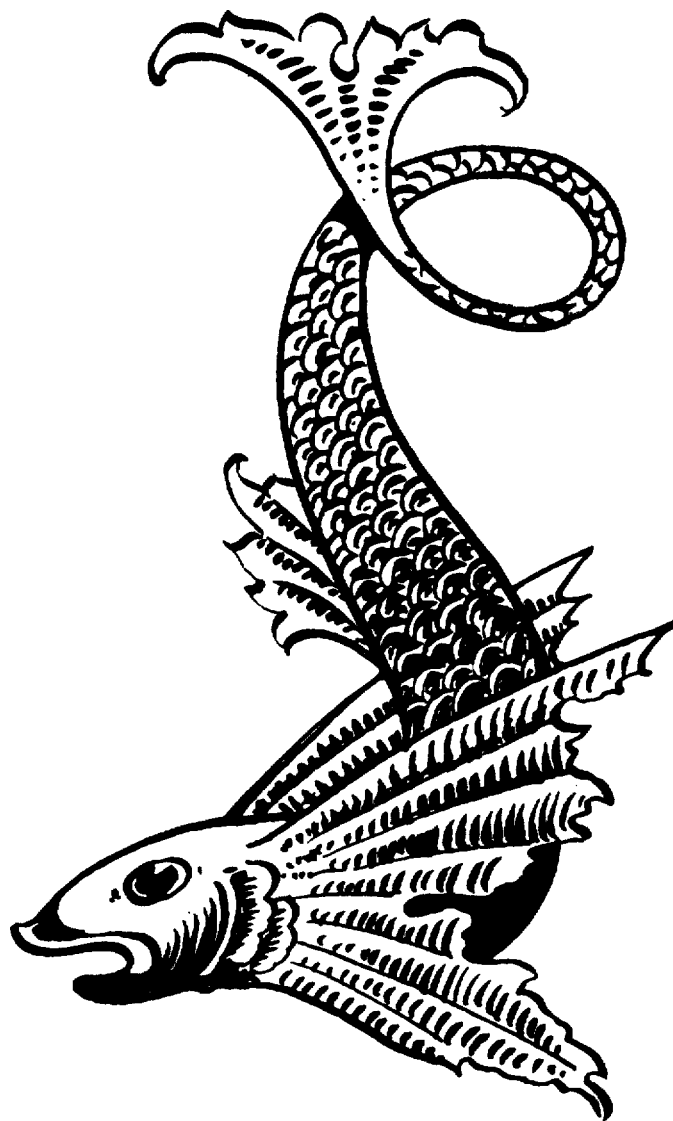
Funds also were approved for data management activities, including a pilot to automate data verification procedures; an independent review of the data associated with the ongoing for-hire pilot study; redesigning the surf clam/ocean quahog individual transferable quota (ITQ) system, redesigning NMFS Southeast Fisheries Science Center's biological data management software; and acquiring the ACCSP host hardware and software. An unlimited server license will be acquired from Business Objects, the query tool chosen to run on the ACCSP data management system.

Funding also was approved for ACCSP administrative activities and to continue the socioeconomic pilot in Georgia and the Northeast Region. The Coordinating Council agreed that additional staff was required for the ACCSP to reach the next level of implementation. As such, an Outreach Coordinator and two data management staff will be hired in 2001.

The ACCSP may receive substantial additional funding for 2001. Based on this knowledge, the Coordinating Council approved an additional RFP. Partners and committees are urged to consider drafting implementation-based proposals. There are many gaps in present data collection which may be appropriate for ACCSP funding. Please discuss the possi-

bility of multi-partner proposals with neighboring states and/or federal agencies. Partners also should consider submitting funding requests for additional staff to assist with implementation of ACCSP standardized systems in their jurisdictions.

**The new RFP submission deadline is November 30, 2000. Please submit proposals to Joe Moran, ACCSP Program Manager, at 1444 Eye Street, N.W., Sixth Floor, Washington, DC, 20005. To request the RFP document, please contact Kez Mykolz, ACCSP Administrative Assistant, at (202)289-6400 or [kmykolz@asmfc.org](mailto:kmykolz@asmfc.org). For more information, please contact Mike Cahall, ACCSP Information Systems Program Manager, at [mcahall@asmfc.org](mailto:mcahall@asmfc.org), or Joe Moran, at [jmoran@asmfc.org](mailto:jmoran@asmfc.org).**



## ASMFC to Hold Workshop on Regulatory Discards

Discards are a concern in virtually every fishery. Discards can be grouped into two general categories. Regulatory discards are fish that cannot be retained in the catch because of regulatory reasons, such as size limits or quota restrictions. Economic discards are those species thrown back for economic reasons (e.g. no market or low value). In the past few years, regulatory discards have surfaced as an issue in several East Coast fisheries, such as the recreational striped bass and commercial scup fisheries. To address this issue, a subcommittee of the Commission's Management and Science Committee is finalizing plans for a workshop in early 2001 to discuss ways to reduce the amount of regulatory discards captured as a result of Atlantic coastal commercial and recreational fishing practices.

The goal of the workshop is to "identify and discuss potential methods to reduce the amount of regulatory discards taken, and/or increase the utilization of the discards taken." Through a series of presentations and break out groups, work-

shop participants will develop recommendations that can be implemented on the Atlantic coast to reduce the amount of regulatory discards taken. Discussions will focus on how to improve currently implemented methods aimed at reducing discards, as well as identifying entirely new methods to address the problem. To increase perspective, the subcommittee has identified participants from the Gulf and west coasts, Alaska, and Canada who will be invited to attend the workshop. Overall, participation is being sought from state, federal, university, and industry personnel with experience in policy, technical, socioeconomic, law enforcement, protected species, and environmental issues.

The workshop is being planned for two and a half days in early February 2001. The workshop recommendations will be compiled and published by summer 2001. For more information, please contact Jeffrey Brust, Fisheries Research Specialist, at (202) 289-6400, ext. 308.

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## Summer Flounder, Striped Bass, and American Lobster Boards to Meet in Late November

On November 29 & 30, 2000, the Commission's Summer Flounder, Striped Bass, and American Lobster Management Boards will be meeting to discuss a number of issues. The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board will be meeting first on the 29th from noon to 3:00 PM to set the commercial quota and recreational harvest limit for 2001 fisheries.

The Striped Bass Board will meet from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM also on the 29th to review the public comment received on Addendum V and take final action on that document.

The American Lobster Board will meet from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM on the 30th to review and approve the first draft of Addendum II to Amendment 3 to the American Lobster Fishery Management Plan for public review and comment. The Draft Addendum includes options for revising the egg rebuilding schedule, minimum gauge size and minimum escape vent size established by Amendment 3. If approved, the document will most likely go out to public meetings early next year.

For more information, please contact Robert Beal, Summer Flounder and Striped Bass Fisheries Management Plan, or Heather Stirratt, American Lobster Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400.

## Sturgeon Board Approves Documents for Public Review; States to Hold Hearings in Early December

On October 16, 2000, the Commission's Sturgeon Management Board met in Clearwater Beach, Florida, to discuss draft documents supporting Addendum I to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sturgeon.

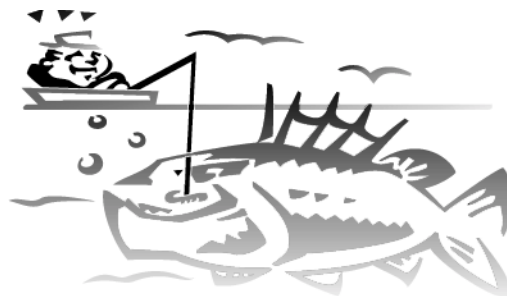
The first document entitled, "ASMFC Terms, Limitations, Enforcement and Reporting Requirements for the Purposes of Permitting Importation of non-Indigenous Atlantic Sturgeon and the Development of Private Aquaculture Facilities," is an umbrella document intended to apply to all future exemption requests for the current possession and harvest moratorium established under Amendment 1. The second document, the Public Hearing Draft of Addendum I, addresses two specific requests for the importation and use of non-indigenous Atlantic sturgeon in private aquaculture facilities.

Public review and comment is sought on both documents, with the States of Maine, New York, Georgia and Florida holding public hearings in early December.

Copies of both documents can be obtained by either contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's webpage at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), under the "Public Input" page. For more information please contact Heather Stirratt, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400, ext. 301.

## Fishing Tournament Lands Big One\$ for Children's Fishing Programs

The Ninth Annual Laura Leach Fishing Tournament was not only fun for all who were able to participate, but it was again successful in its goal of surpassing funds raised the previous year. All of the money raised from the tournament entry fee will help to support the children's fishing programs sponsored by the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.



Grateful appreciation is once again extended to all who entered the tournament – most folks entered the tournament even though they knew that they would not have an opportunity to fish, and several people purchased tee-shirts for their friends and family back home.

Because this was a joint meeting with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC), there was the added fun of getting to fish with our friends in the south, and to participate in a challenge thrown down by the GSMFC staff to the ASMFC staff. The staff members from both Commissions (those who were willing and able!) set sail on a beautiful Sunday afternoon to fish in the warm waters of the Gulf. Unfortunately, the GSMFC staff was victorious that afternoon, perhaps because they have more time (and places!) to fish than the poor ASMFC staff, stuck in Washington, D.C. with only the Potomac River at their back door!

Special thanks are extended to the tournament sponsors: -- Shakespeare, Alisa Utamating of Alisa's Collection, Dr. Glenda Kelley of the International Game Fish Association, and Betty Bauman, organizer of "Ladies, Let's Go Fishing!" It is because of the generosity of these individuals and companies that we are able to give 100% of the tournament entry fee to charity each year.

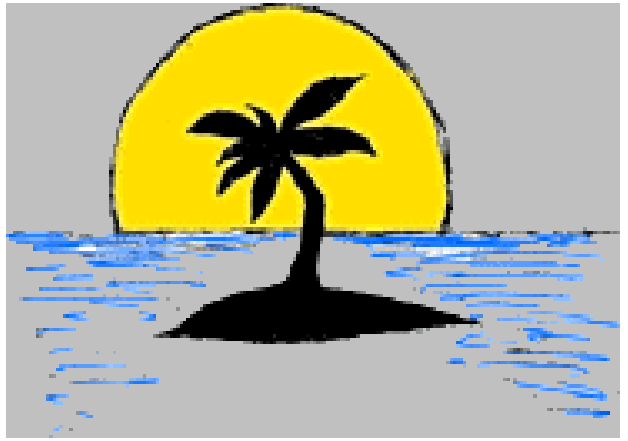
Congratulations to the winners of this year's tournament -- Nancy Marcellus of the GSMFC staff for catching the longest fish overall (26.5" gag grouper), Ginny Fay (National Marine Fisheries Service) for catching the only red drum, Pat Augustine of New York for catching the longest fish from shore (21.5" jack crevalle) and Tom Healy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Baltimore, Maryland, for catching the most fish (53 assorted species). Prizes were awarded in two additional categories this year – Most Enthusiastic – Pat Augustine, and Most Deserving of an Award without Winning a Category – Tina Berger of the ASMFC staff. Additionally, fish stories were told at the reception and there were a variety of stories told, some good and some not-so-good...



*Nancy Marcellus (GSMFC staff) with her prize winning 26.5" gag grouper.*



# *Resolution in Appreciation of the Host State*



*Whereas, the Atlantic and Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commissions celebrated the new millennium by meeting jointly for their 59<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meetings on the balmy, snowshoe-free tropical Gulf coast in Clearwater Beach, Florida; and,*

*Whereas, the weather and beaches could not have been more perfect (where have all the hurricanes gone?!); and,*

*Whereas, the beach water temperature was just right for most of the out-of-staters (at least north of Georgia) and the sunsets have been spectacular; and,*

*Whereas, the record number of attendees fished, ate, drank and discussed (not necessarily in that order) many issues of significant importance; and,*

*Whereas, the Gulf states threw down a challenge that the gracious Southerners would beat the damn Yankees on the golf course and in the Ninth Annual Laura Leach Fishing Tournament (and they beat us on the links but not in the ocean, thanks to Pat Augustine and others who gave their all for the good of the cause); and,*

*Whereas, the Commissions honored two outstanding recipients by awarding them the prestigious Hart and Lyles Awards (congratulations Susan Shipman and Jim Barkuloo); and,*

*Whereas, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service shared their visions for the future of fisheries management in the new century; and,*

*Whereas, everyone will return to their winter climate feeling more rested, looking a bit more tan, and more ready to tackle the issues at hand,*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ASMFC expresses its deep appreciation to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, especially Lisa Gregg who worked tirelessly on this meeting, for hosting the Y2K annual meeting in such a gracious and delightful manner.*

*Be it further resolved that ASMFC express its appreciation to the Adam's Mark Clearwater Beach staff for excellent service above and beyond the call of duty.*

**Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1444 Eye Street, N.W., 6th Floor  
Washington D.C. 20005**

***Return Service Requested***